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Weekly Summary

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The WEEKLY SUMMARY, issued every Friday morning by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Economic Research, the Office of Strategic Research, and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the contents.

Warning Notice
Sensitive Intelligence Sources and Methods Involved

Additional Warning
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24 Argentina: Lull in Terrorism

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ARGENTINA: LULL IN TERRORISM

Terrorist activity has fallen off in recent weeks, in large part because of a successful government crackdown. Left-wing revolutionaries are on the defensive and reportedly are considering alternative tactics. Despite this slackening in violence, the continuing warfare between the left and right remains a serious problem for the Peron government.

Widespread arrests, effective joint operations by military and police forces, and an apparent change in the psychological climate are causing the terrorists to retrench and take stock of their situation. The People's Revolutionary Army—the major terrorist group—met recently with several Trotskyist and radical student organizations to discuss plans for a political alliance that would serve as a nucleus for a broader based coalition of leftist revolutionary parties.

There are other signs that the terrorists may be digging in for a protracted period. [redacted] the People's Revolutionary Army hopes to form ties with the moderately leftist Intransigent Party, a legally recognized organization headed by outspokenly anti-US Oscar Alende. Alende's party belongs to a political front that includes the orthodox Communist Party of Argentina. These parties have opposed extreme leftist violence and have generally given conditional support to the Peronist government. They would probably resist overtures from groups committed to armed revolution.

Although these moves appear to signal a switch in emphasis from military to political strategy, there is no indication that the terrorists intend to abandon completely the campaign of kidnapings and armed attacks that has become their trademark. They will probably continue to use these tactics to raise funds and to demonstrate their active commitment to armed struggle.

The army, meanwhile, has reportedly learned the location of key guerrilla encampments in the northwestern province of Tucuman, and plans are under way for a major sweep of the area. Tucuman, the birthplace of the People's Revolutionary Army, has been a base for rural insurgency and the training of urban terrorist squads. If security forces can severely cripple the Tucuman stronghold, they will have moved a long way toward weakening the entire organization. [redacted]

Security precautions

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